

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been cancelled. Although applicants strongly disagree with the rejections for the reasons previously stated, Applicants have cancelled these claims in order to expedite issuance of the claims already indicated as allowable. Accordingly, Claims 9-12 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 9 is an independent claims. Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 9-12 are allowed.

In view of the following Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (Paragraph 3 of the Office Action)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,091,194 issued to Swirbel, *et al.* (“Swirbel”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,614,174 issued to Urabe, *et al.* (“Urabe”), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0132233 applied for by Yamazaki *et al.* (“Yamazaki”). This rejection is moot in view of the claim cancellations.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (Paragraph 5 of the Office Action)

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Swirbel* in view of *Urabe* and *Yamazaki* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,091,196 issued to Codama (“Codama”). This rejection is moot in view of the claim cancellations.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (Paragraph 6)

Claims 3-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Swirbel* in view of *Yamazaki* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,345 issued to Kuribayashi *et al.* (“Kuribayashi”). This rejection is moot in view of the claim cancellations.


CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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